

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131854

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, EEW, RO

SUBJECT: FATHER GALDAU'S EMIGRATION "HUNGER STRIKE"
PROTEST IN NYC

REF: A) STATE 119306 B) BUCHAREST 2442

1. ONLY DEMARCHE MADE BY ROMANIAN EMBASSY HERE ON THE CURRENT EMIGRE PROTEST IN NYC WAS THAT OF MAY 17, REPORTED REF A. HOWEVER, WE HAVE SEVERAL REPORTS FROM FBI AND PRESS OF INTENSE CONCERN EXHIBITED BY EMBASSY OVER THE AFFAIR. THE BUREAU HAS REPORTED HIGHLY VISIBLE PRESENCE OF ROMANIAN EMBASSY AND UN DELEGATION OFFICERS IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROTEST, TAKING PICTURES OF AND CAJOLLING THE DEMONSTRATORS IN A SO FAR NOTABLY UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO QUIET THEM. (FBI HAS ALSO REPORTED SOME DEMONSTRATORS' COMPLAINTS THAT THEY AND/OR THEIR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN THREAENED WITH "CONSEQUENCES" IF THEY DO NOT STOP DEMONSTRATION).

2. MOST RECENT INFORMATION PROVIDED DEPARTMENT BY NY POST REPORTER JUNE 3. HE SAID DEMONSTRATORS NOW NUMBER BETWEEN 12 AND 15. HE BELIEVES AT LEAST SOME OF THEM ARE TRULY
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REFUSING TO EAT. HE HAS ALSO BEEN TOLD BY DEMONSTRATORS

OF COMBINED THREATS AND PROMISES MADE BY ROMANIAN

OFFICIALS. IN TALKING TO ROMANIAN OFFICIALS, THEY HAVE TOLD HIM THAT PROTEST HAS BEEN MANIPULATED BY "FASCIST, IRON GUARDIST" ELEMENTS; THAT GOR IS PREPARED TO GRANT PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO A NUMBER OF FAMILIES; THAT SOME OF THE DEMONSTRATORS WISH THEREFORE TO QUIT PROTEST BUT ARE BEING "FORCIBLY" PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY THE INSTIGATORS; AND THAT IN SOME INSTANCES, PERSONS DEMONSTRATING "OWE MONEY" TO 5 THE GOR WHICH IF THEY WOULD ONLY PAY WOULD RESOLVE THE ISSUE.

3. NY POST REPORTER DESCRIBED PROTESTORS AS FOR MOST PART "FORMER TRUCK DRIVERS", MECHANICS OR SHIP CREWMEN WHO FOUND A WAY ABROAD. ONLY ONE IS AN "INTELLECTUAL," HE SAID.

4. IN YOUR RESPONSE TO GLIGA, YOU MAY SAY THAT WE AGREE THAT SUCH PROTESTS ARE NOT HELPFUL AT THIS POINT WHEN THE TRADE AGREEMENT SEEMS IN SOME JEOPARDY BEFORE THE CONGRESS. WE OF COURSE HOPE THAT THE GOR WILL REVIEW THE EMIGRATION CASES OF THE PROTESTORS' RELATIVES IN THE LIGHT OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS AND THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE ON THE HILL, AND WILL DO WHAT IT CAN CONSISTENT WITH ITS LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM.

5. REGARDING SECURITY, WE NOTE THE PROTESTORS HAVE OBTAINED THE REQUIRED NYPD PERMISSION AND SO FAR AS WE KNOW HAVE CONDUCTED THEMSELVES PEACEABLY. WE KNOW OF NO FLAG-RELATED INCIDENT. WE ARE OF COURSE FULLY CONSCIOUS OF OUR OBLIGATIONS TO PROTECT ROMANIAN PROPERTY AND PERSONS AND WHILE WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE EITHER ARE ENDANGERED BY THE CURRENT NYC PROTEST, WE WILL GIVE INCREASED ATTENTION TO SECURITY-RELATED MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CEAUSESCU VISIT. KISSINGER

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